Justice in Manitoba
Key Indicators

1986

Manitoba
Attorney General
Research, Planning
& Evaluation

Introduction

"Statistics, statistics, statistics! I don't want any more statistics or data! What I need is more information!" Many of us responsible for, or interested in, public administration share this lament of a senior manager in a large institution.

Faced daily with reams of important reports and figures which are important for particular purposes, but difficult to digest and interpret, we need more information which indicates, in a general way, the directions being taken in our major institutions and programs.

For this reason I am pleased to introduce the first issue of "Justice in Manitoba--Key Indicators." As the title suggest, it gathers together selected information to provide indicators of trends and developments within Manitoba's justice system.

Not all the information I would like to see is contained in this issue. I expect the contents to be augmented and improved on in the future. The publication will be made available annually.

I trust that this publication will help increase the awareness of the activities and programs contained within the Department of the Attorney-General, and serve to enhance the accountability of the Department both to the Legislature and the public.

Roland Penner, Q.C.

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Highlights of the Report

Law enforcement indicators revealed steady increases in offences against persons from 1983 to 1985 among the annual quarterly figures examined. The year 1985 saw increases which ranged from 5.7% for the 1st quarter (Jan.-Mar.) to 10.6% for the 3rd quarter (July-Sept.). Property offences were less consistent over the time period with 1985 experiencing an 18.1% decrease for the 1st quarter and an 11.8% increase for the 2nd quarter (Apr.-June). The average number of persons charged ranged from just over 50% for crimes against persons to just under 20% for crimes against property.

Court indicators were available for the Court of Appeal and Queen's Bench. The Court of Appeal, while seeing a 13.9% increase in cases from 1983 to 1984, remained constant in 1985 in terms of the total appeals. While civil appeals fluctuated over the time period, criminal appeals increased steadily with civil and criminal appeals comprising roughly one-half each of the total appeals made in 1985.

The Court of Queen's Bench civil matters contained variations in the indicator areas of files opened, judgements entered and motions which were primarily linked to the joining of the County Court and Queen's Bench in July of 1984.

Criminal matters saw 1984 with peak activity in the areas of trials before judge and motions while trials before judge and jury rose steadily from 1983 to 1985 with increases of 12.8% and 21.7%, respectively.

In 1985, Small Claims Court matters had increases in the areas of claims filed and contested/uncontested claims heard while civil marriage ceremonies experienced a decline.

Domestic applications and Decrees Absolute in the area of family matters were highest in 1984 while 1985 saw reductions of 2.0% and 23.2%, respectively.

Sheriff's services experienced increases in 1985 for the areas of escorts, documents and executions from a low of 2.8% for executions to a high of 12.9% for escorts.

Other legal service areas of The Public Trustee, Land Titles and Personal Property Registry all remained fairly constant from 1983/84 to 1984/85 with variations of less than 5% for the indicator areas reported. Revenue, however, increased substantially with a

24.1% increase for the Public Trustee and a 31.0% increase for Land Titles in 1984/85.

Legal Aid saw steady increases in the indicator areas of applications made, applications refused and total certificates issued over the time period examined. In addition, criminal certificates increased steadily while civil certificates decreased moderately over the three years.

The Maintenance Enforcement Program saw increases in total payments made over the three years accompanied by a corresponding caseload increase in the areas of total number of accounts and active accounts.

Key Indicators for Areas

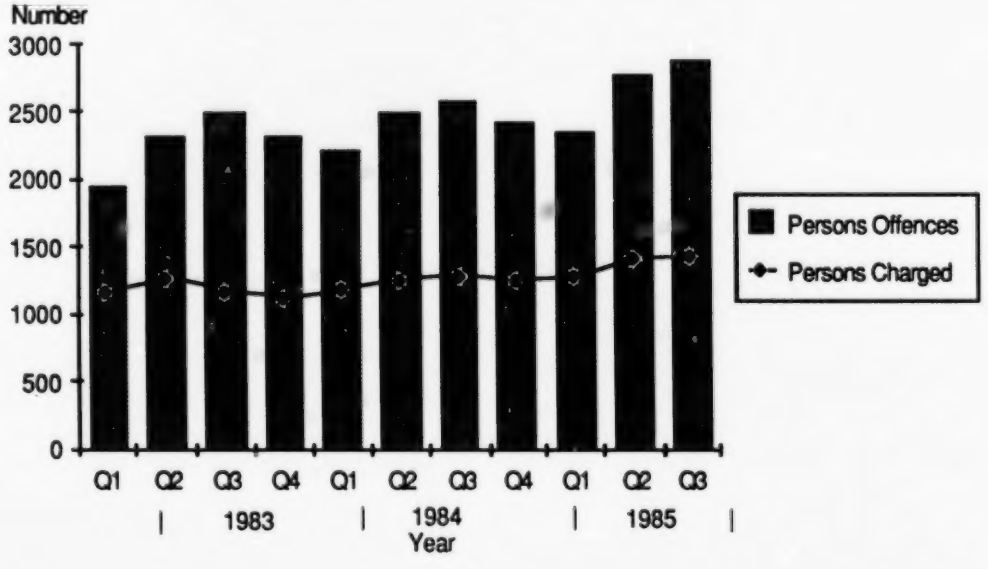
in the

Attorney-General's Department

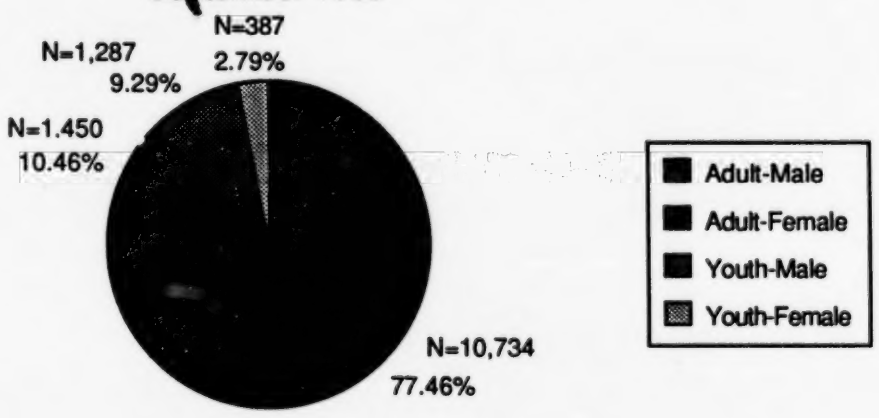
Criminal Justice Division

Law Enforcement in Manitoba

Law Enforcement: Offences Against Persons by Persons Charged in Manitoba



Law Enforcement: Offences Against Persons by Persons Charged in Manitoba, January 1983 - September 1985



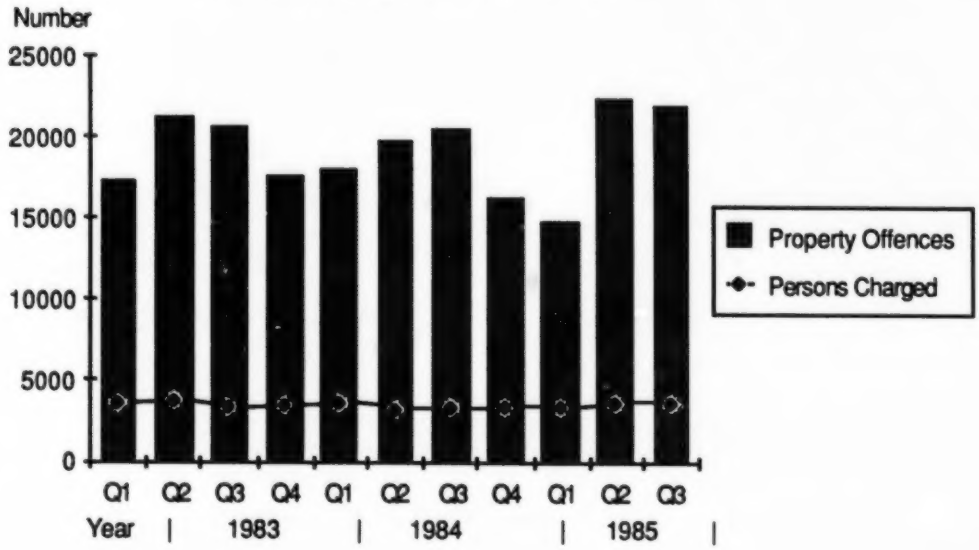
Note: Figures for persons offences in Q1 & Q4 of 1983 and persons charged in Q1 & Q2 of 1983 for the R.C.M.P. municipal and rural forces are averages based on semi-annual totals.

Offences Against Persons	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
(Jan.-Mar.) 1st quarter	1,951	2,225	2,359	+12.3	+ 5.7
(Apr.-June) 2nd quarter	2,322	2,495	2,778	+ 6.9	+10.2
(July-Sept.) 3rd quarter	2,491	2,584	2,890	+ 3.6	+10.6
(Oct.-Dec.) 4th quarter	2,322	2,427	N/A	+ 5.4	N/A
TOTAL	9,086	9,731	8,027		

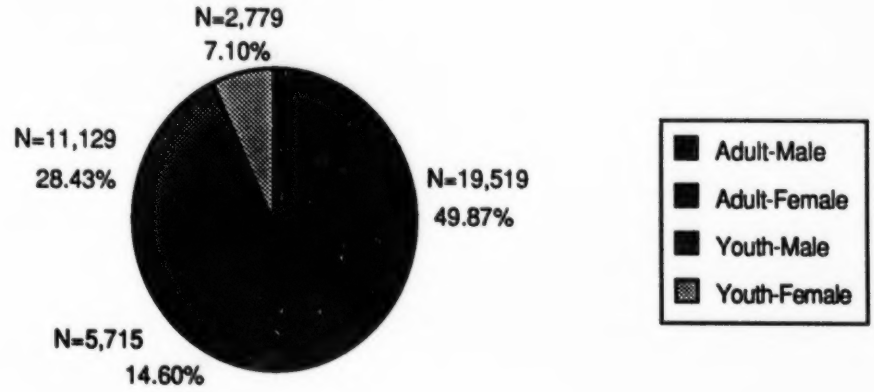
Overall, there were steady increases in the number of offences against persons for each of the quarters reported for 1984 and 1985. The years 1983 and 1984 for which complete data were available, showed the 3rd quarter with the largest number of offences against persons (N=5,075) followed by the 2nd (N=4,817), 4th (N=4,749) and 1st (N=4,176) quarters. However, the differences amongst the quarters were not substantial with the largest difference occurring between the 1st and 4th quarters at 12%. When the total number of offences against persons (N=26,844) was compared to the total number of persons charged (N=13,858) for the time period examined, there were on average just over 50% of the offences resulting in a charge laid.

Information on the number of persons charged with offences against persons for the time period Jan. 1983 to Sept. 1985 inclusive, revealed that of the 13,858 total persons charged, 12,184 were adults. Adult males were the predominant group charged (77.46%) as opposed to adult females (10.46%), male youths (9.29%) and female youths (2.79%).

Law Enforcement: Offences Against Property by Persons Charged in Manitoba



Law Enforcement: Offences Against Property by Persons Charged in Manitoba, January 1983 - September 1985



Note: Figures for property offences in Q3 & Q4 of 1983 and persons charged in Q1 & Q2 of 1983 for the R.C.M.P. municipal and rural forces were based on semi-annual totals.

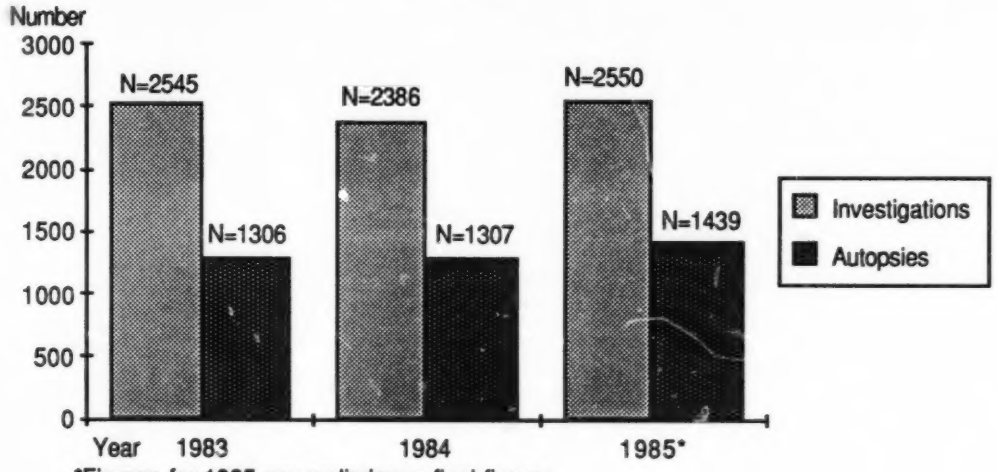
Offences Against Property	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
(Jan.-Mar.) 1st quarter	17,259	18,064	14,802	+4.5	-18.1
(Apr.-June) 2nd quarter	21,198	19,798	22,442	- 6.6	+11.8
(July-Sept.) 3rd quarter	20,618	20,606	21,999	- 0.1	+ 6.3
(Oct.-Dec.) 4th quarter	17,577	16,221	N/A	- 7.7	N/A
TOTAL	76,652	74,689	59,243		

The total number of offences against property was substantially higher (N=210,584) than the number of offences against persons (N=26,844) during the time period examined. The number of property offences for each of the quarters reported from 1983 to 1985 ranged from a low of 14,802 to a high of 21,999. Complete quarterly data which were available for 1983 and 1984 revealed that the 2nd (N=40,996) and 3rd (N=41,224) quarters contained the largest number of property offences followed by lower numbers for the 1st (N=35,323) and 4th (N=33,798) quarters. In 1985, data from the first three quarters indicated increases in the 2nd(11.8%) and 3rd (6.3%) quarters with a decrease in the 1st quarter (18.1%). A comparison of the total number of offences against property (N=210,584) versus the total number of person charged (N=38,782) for the time period examined resulted in a total of just under 20% of the offences leading to a charge laid.

An examination of the total persons charged with offences against property revealed that adults constituted the majority of those charged (N=24,874). However, males as opposed to females represented the major portion of adults charged (N=19,159 adult males). The distribution of persons charged with property offences was as follows: adult males (49.87%); male youths (28.43%); adult females (14.60%); and, female youths (7.10%).

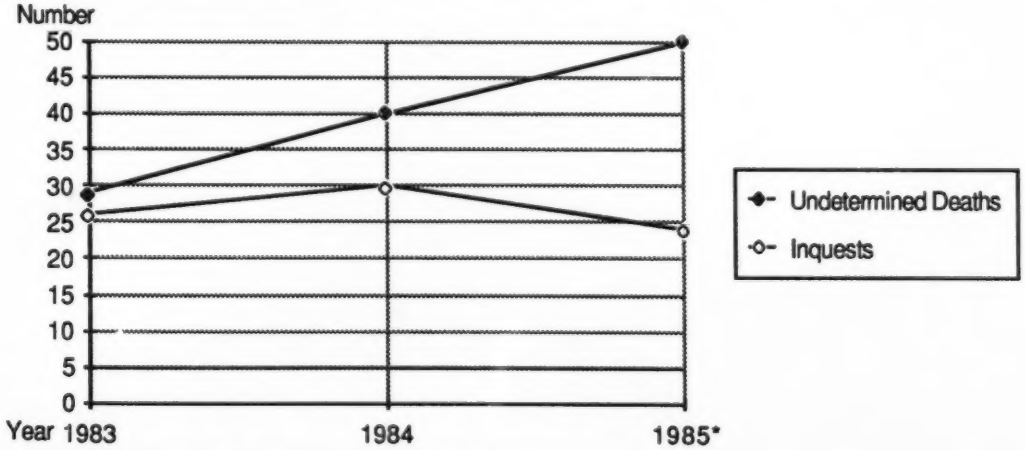
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manitoba

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manitoba: Major Activity Areas



*Figures for 1985 are preliminary; final figures available in July/86.

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manitoba: Undetermined Death and Inquest Indicators



*Figures for 1985 are preliminary; final figures available in July/86.

Indicator Area	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
Investigations	2,545	2,386	2,550	- 6.2	+ 6.4
Autopsies	1,306	1,307	1,439	+ 0.1	+ 9.2
Undetermined Deaths	29	40	50	+27.5	+20.0
Inquests	26	30	24	+13.4	-20.0

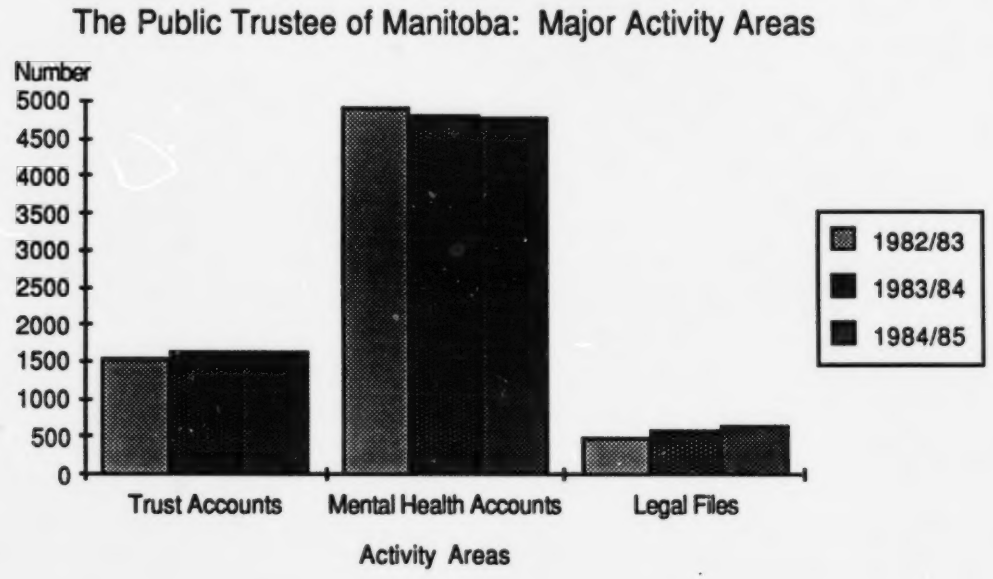
Note: The figures for 1985 are preliminary and will be finalized by July/86 pending the completion of investigations and inquests. In addition, the term "undetermined deaths" refers to those cases where the actual cause of death could not be ascertained.

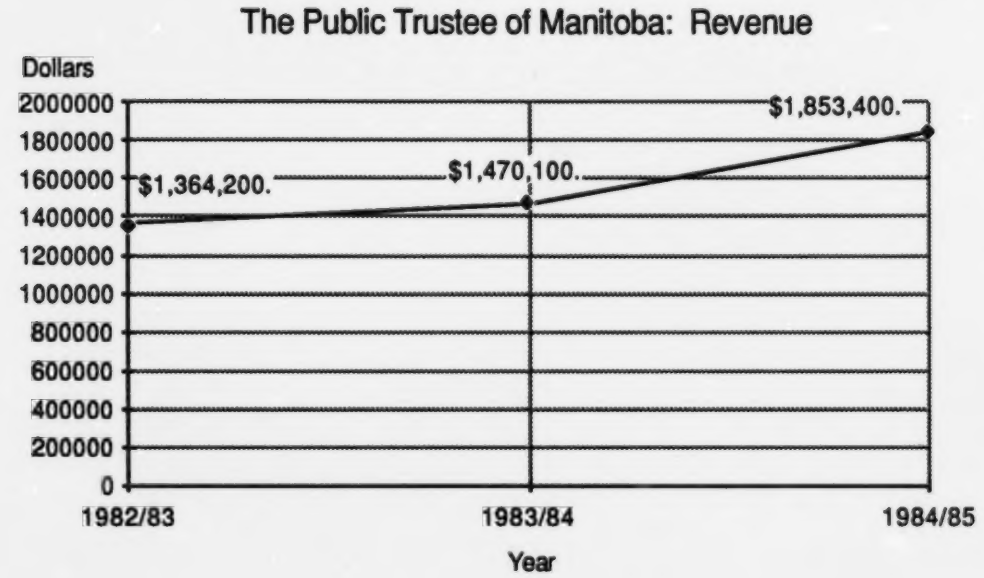
The number of investigations fluctuated over the three years peaking in 1985 at 2,550. The number of autopsies, when examined in proportion to investigations for each of the years, revealed an increase from 51% to 55% to 56% for 1983, 1984 and 1985, respectively. The number of undetermined deaths increased by at least 20% in both 1984 and 1985.

Overall, 1985 saw increases among the major indicators ranging from 6% for investigations to 20% for undetermined deaths. The exception in 1985 was for inquests which experienced a 20% decrease in activity.

Justice Division

The Public Trustee of Manitoba



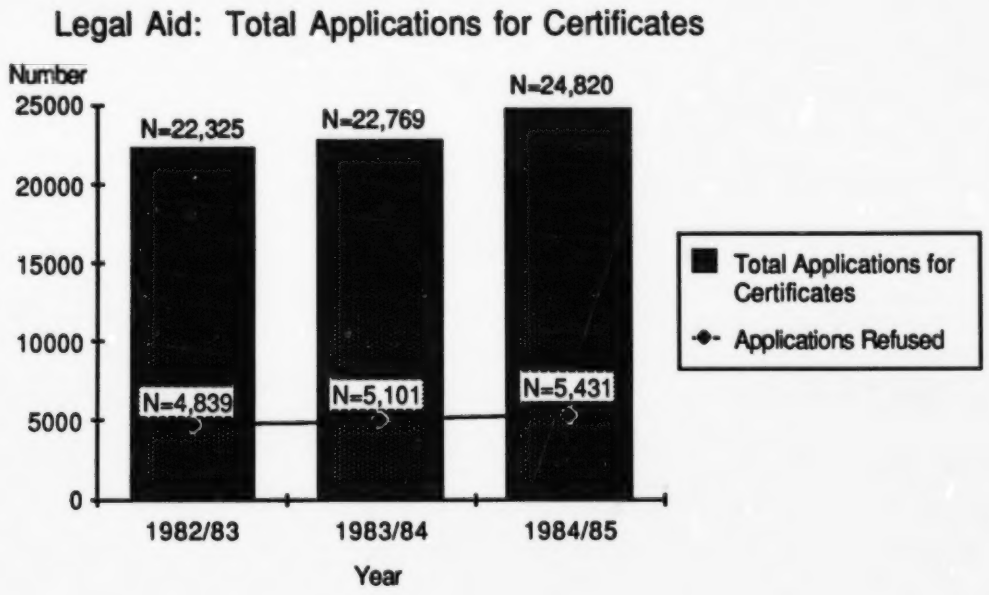


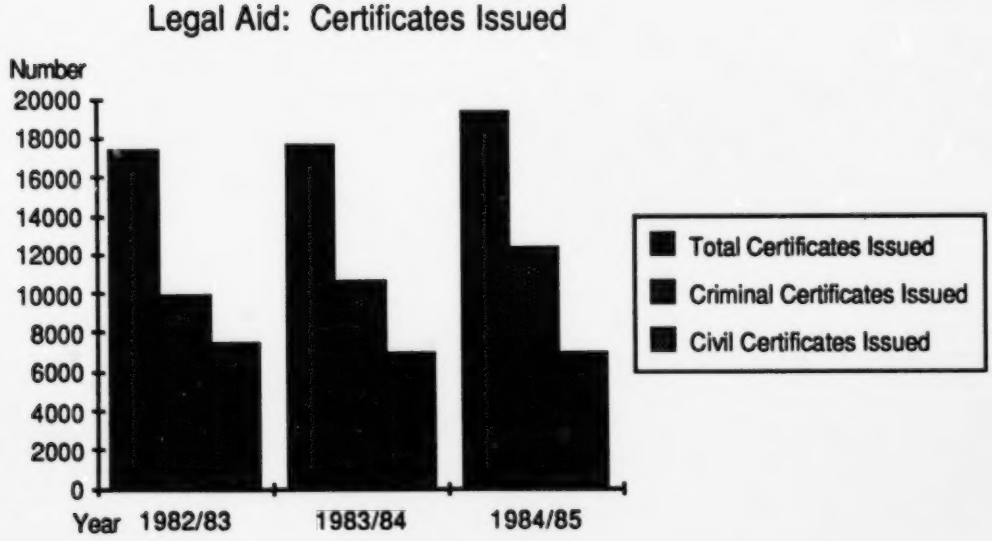
Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1983/84	1984/85
Mental Health Accounts	4,916	4,816	4,784	- 2.0	- 0.7
Trust Accounts	1,557	1,646	1,632	+ 5.4	- 0.8
Legal Dept. Files	602	670	686	+10.1	+ 2.3
Revenue (000's $)	1,364.2	1,470.1	1,853.4	+ 7.1	+24.1
Expenditures (000's $)	1,336.0	1,522.7	1,623.4	+12.2	+ 6.2
Dollars Under Administration (000's $)					
Trust Division	16,165.2	19,709.7	20,971.7	+18.0	+ 6.0
Mental Health Division	32,263.4	42,288.8	50,229.0	+23.7	+15.8

The areas of activity in the Annual Reports for the Public Trustee of Manitoba were trust accounts, mental health accounts and legal department files. Mental health accounts represented the largest area and comprised just under 70% of the activity from the three areas for each of the years examined. The account/file volume did not undergo significant changes during the three years with trust accounts (-.08%) and mental health accounts (-.07%) declining slightly in 1984/85. Legal department files saw a small increase (+2.3%) for the most recent year reported while recording a 10.1% increase in the previous year of 1983/84.

Revenue experienced growth in both the 1983/84 and 1984/85 fiscal years with increases of 7.1% and 24.1%, respectively. Expenditures also rose, but to a lesser extent overall with increases of 12.2% and 6.2% for 1983/84 and 1984/85, respectively. The dollars under administration saw substantial increases in the areas of trust accounts and mental health accounts for the two most recent years.

Legal Aid Manitoba





Indicator Area	Number			% Change	
	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1983/84	1984/85
Applications for Certificates	22,325	22,769	24,820	+ 2.0	+ 8.3
Applications Refused	4,839	5,101	5,431	+5.1	+6.1
Total Certificates Issued	17,486	17,668	19,389	+1.0	+8.9
Criminal	9,985	10,649	12,372	+6.2	+13.9
Civil	7,501	7,019	7,017	- 6.4	- 0.03
Total Expenditures (000's $)	6,981.1	8,362.5	8,275.2	+16.5	- 1.0

The total number of applications for certificates rose over the time period examined with increases of 2% and 8.3% in 1983/84 and 1984/85, respectively. However, the number of refusals while increasing overall, remained constant in proportion to the total applications made for each of the years (ranging from 21.7% to 22.4%).

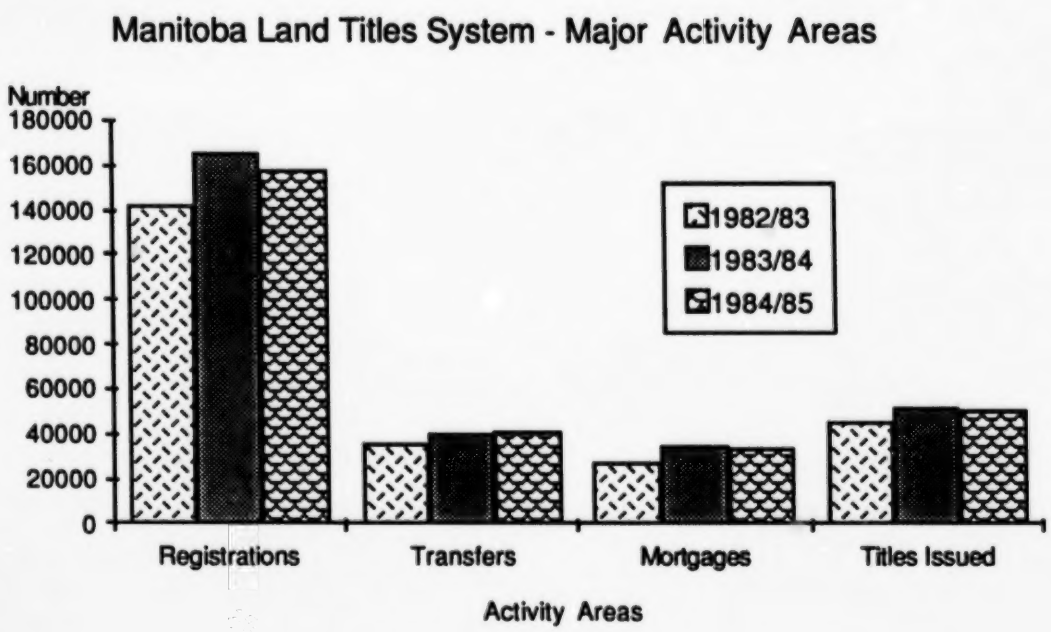
Among the total certificates issued, there was also a steady increase over the three years. The increases were attributable to the criminal certificates which represented from 57% to 60% to 64% of the total certificates issued over the three years. Conversely, civil certificates decreased by 6.4% and .03% over the time period.

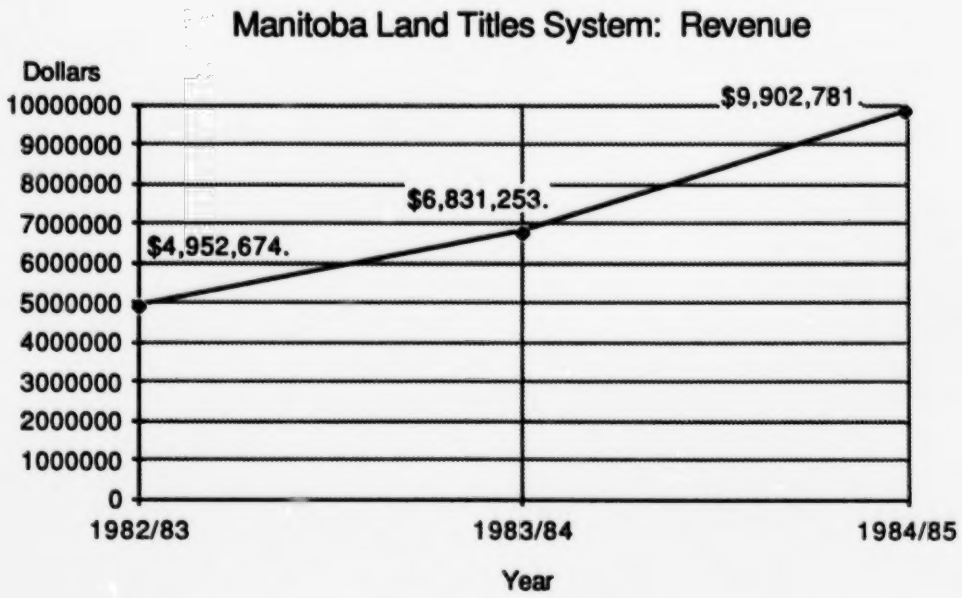
Information on total expenditures by Legal Aid Manitoba revealed a 16.5% increase from 1982/83 to 1983/84 followed by a 1% decrease for 1984/85.

The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics in their 1984/85 Annual Report stated that the per capita expenditures for Legal Aid in Manitoba were as follows: 1982/83-$6.71; 1983/84-$7.96; and, 1984/85-$7.79.

Property Registration Division

Manitoba Land Titles System





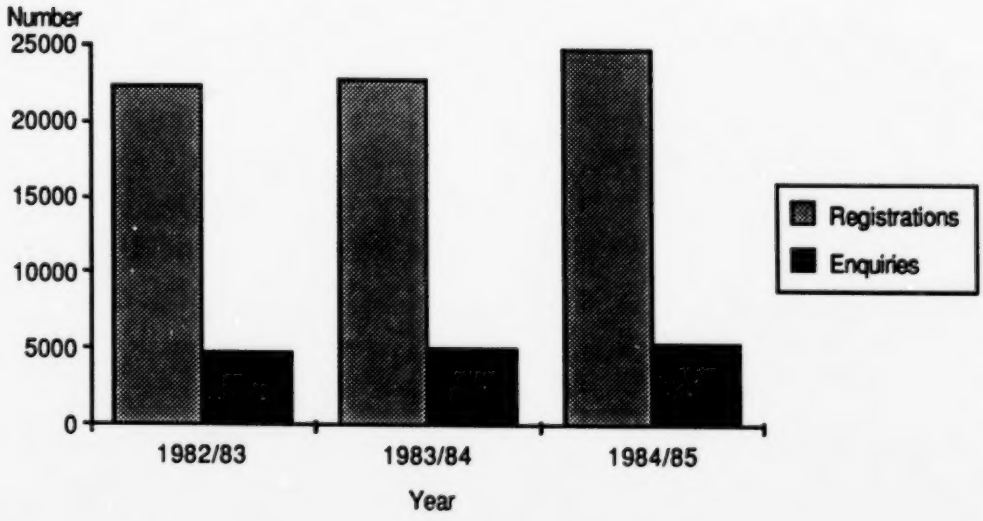
Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1983/84	1984/85
Registrations	143,633	165,409	158,249	+13.2	- 4.3
Transfers	36,637	40,836	40,996	+10.3	+ 0.4
Mortgages	27,945	35,200	33,561	+20.6	- 4.6
Titles Issued	45,403	53,237	51,465	+14.7	- 3.3
Revenue (000's $)	4,952.6	6,831.3	9,902.8	+27.5	+31.0

Among the major activities examined during the three fiscal years, the 1983/84 period saw peak activity in the areas of registrations, mortgages and titles issued with the exception of transfers where 1984/85 was slightly higher. Conversely, minimal decreases were experienced in the areas of registrations, mortgages and titles issued in 1984/85 over the previous fiscal year.

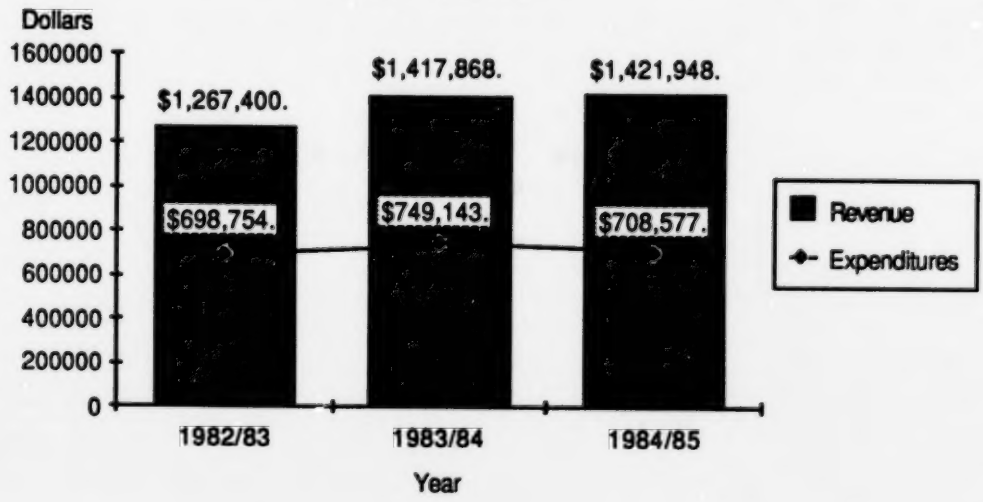
Revenue received by the Manitoba Land Titles System experienced a substantial increase in each of the two most recent years examined. The large increase in revenue in 1984/85, notwithstanding an overall decrease in activity levels for that year, was attributed to a new tariff on fees which took effect at the end of the fiscal year on Feb. 1/84. The rate of inflation, although less influential in the increase in revenue, was also cited as an intervening factor for the years 1983/84 and 1984/85.

Personal Property Registry in Manitoba

Personal Property Registry in Manitoba: Major Activity Levels



Personal Property Registry in Manitoba: Revenue and Expenditures



Indicator Area	Number			% Change	
	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1983/84	1984/85
Registrations	238,811	265,983	264,494	+10.2	- 0.6
Enquiries (Total)	83,592	104,198	99,486	+19.8	- 4.5
Verbal	63,524	78,744	75,036	+19.3	- 4.7
Certified	20,068	25,454	24,450	+21.2	- 3.9
Revenue (000's $)	1,267.4	1,417.9	1,421.9	+10.6	+ 0.3
Expenditures (000's $)	698.8	749.1	708.6	+ 6.7	- 5.4

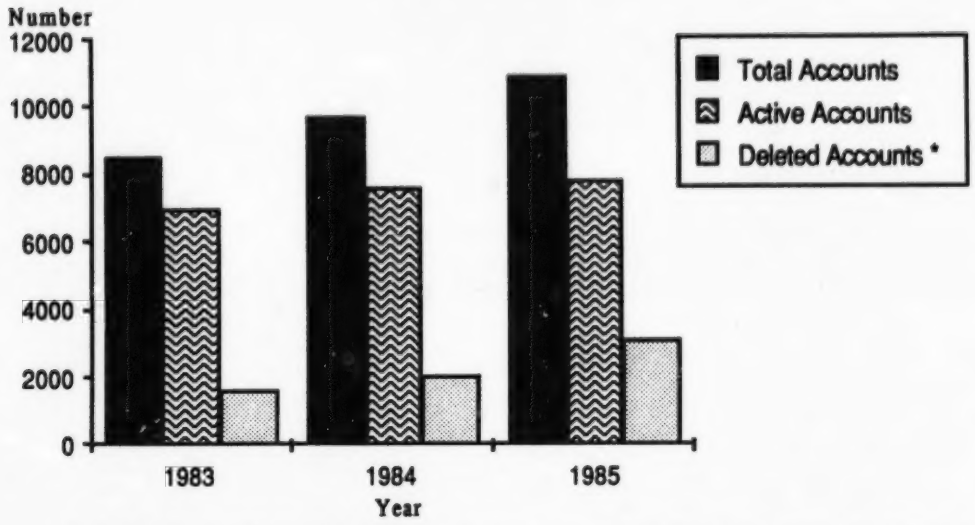
The activity areas of both registrations and enquiries peaked in 1983/84 while experiencing a slight decline in 1984/85 in the three fiscal years examined. Among enquiries, verbal as opposed to certified enquiries were predominant and constituted roughly three-quarters of the activity for each of the years.

Revenue peaked in 1984/85 experiencing a slight increase from the previous year. Expenditures were highest in 1983/84 followed by a moderate decrease in 1984/85.

Courts Division

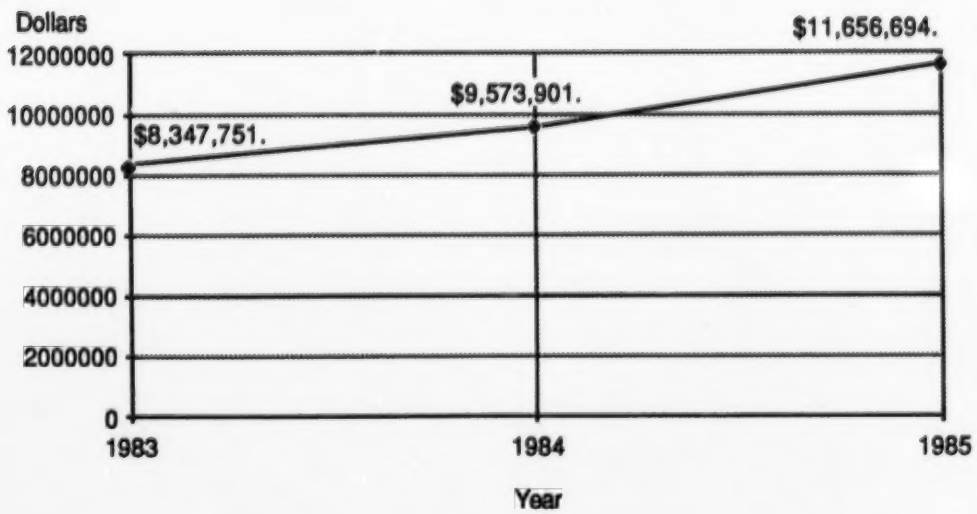
Maintenance Enforcement Program in Manitoba

Maintenance Enforcement Program in Manitoba: Total Accounts



*Deleted Accounts as of December 31 of each year include orders ceased by court orders, expiry of orders and deceased payor or payee-initiated terminations.

Maintenance Enforcement Program: Total Payments Received



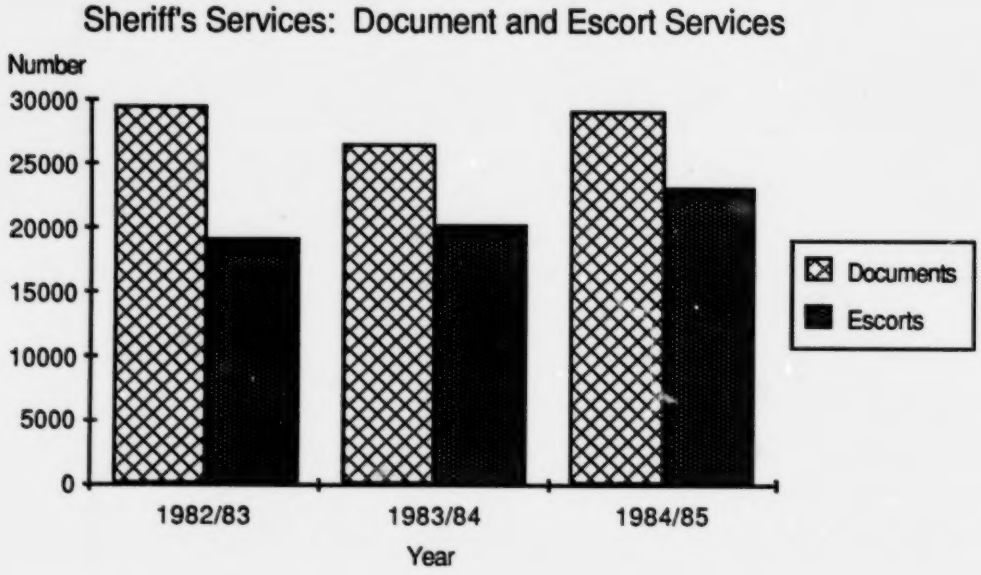
Accounts Area	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
Total Number of Accounts	8,554	9,696	10,931	+11.8	+11.3
Active Accounts	6,971	7,627	7,830	+ 8.6	+ 2.6
Deleted Accounts	1,583	2,069	3,101	+23.5	+33.3
Total Payments Received (000's $)	8,347.8	9,573.9	11,656.7	+12.8	+17.9
Funds Recovered by Program (000's $)*	741.6	806.9	923.8	+ 8.0	+12.6

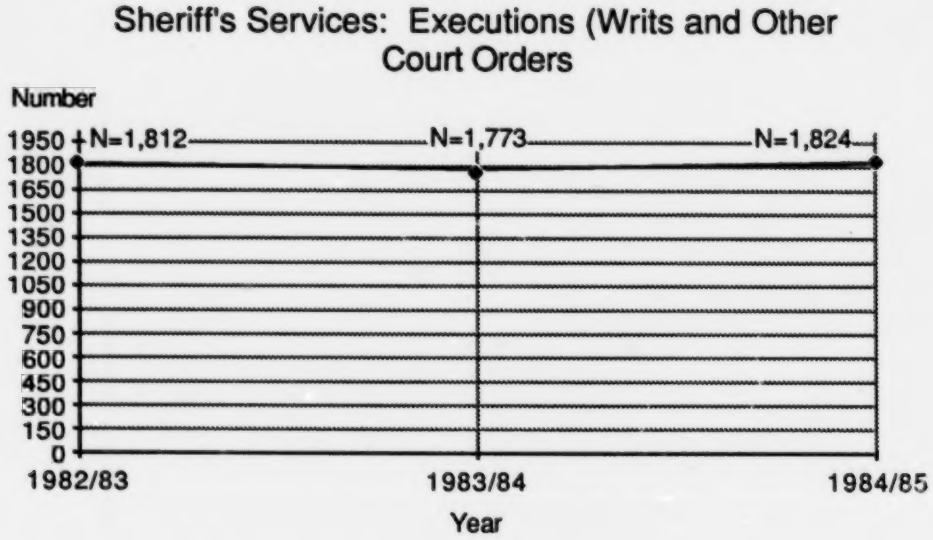
* These funds are classified as the dollars recovered by the Maintenance Enforcement Program that would otherwise have been paid out by the Government in the form of Social Assistance payments.

Increases in Maintenance Enforcement accounts were present from 1983 to 1985 in the areas of total accounts, active accounts and deleted accounts. Total accounts rose just over 11% in both 1984 and 1985. While deleted accounts increased substantially over the two most recent years, this was offset by growth in the more numerous active accounts during that period.

Total payments received through the program also grew steadily in 1984 and 1985 with 12.6% and 17.9% increases over the respective preceding years. In addition, the funds recovered by the Maintenance Enforcement Program which offset Social Assistance payments increased in both 1984 (8.0%) and 1985 (12.6%).

Sheriff's Services in Manitoba



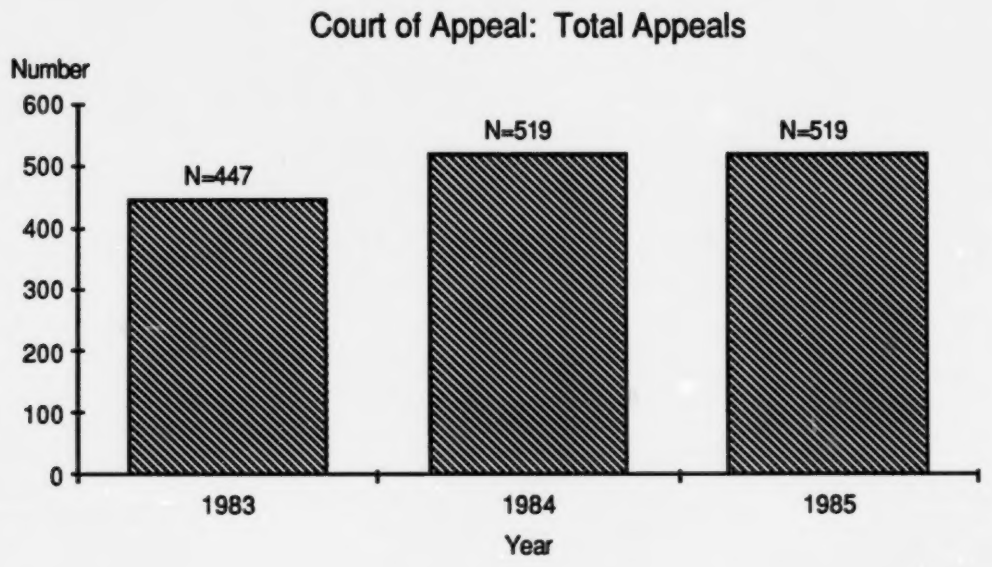


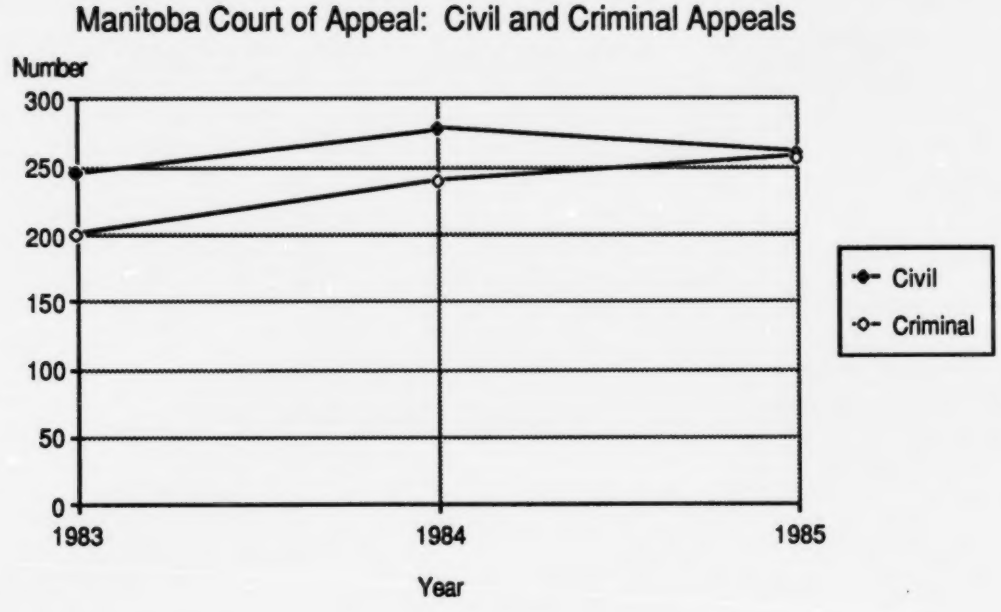
Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1983/84	1984/85
Executions	1,812	1,773	1,824	- 2.2	+ 2.8
Documents	29,662	26,642	29,216	-10.2	+ 8.8
Escorts *	19,240	20,363	23,374	+ 5.5	+12.9

* Does not include escorts within Public Safety Building - approximately 10,000 per year from holding cells to courtrooms. In addition, figures for youths escorted in The Pas and Brandon for 1982/83 were not available.

The activity areas of executions and documents experienced a decline in 1983/84 followed by increases in 1984/85. The area of escorts rose steadily over the three year period examined with increases of 5.5% and 12.9% in 1983/84 and 1984/85, respectively. Overall, the fiscal year 1984/85 saw increases in each of the major activity areas ranging from 2.8% for executions to 12.9% for escorts.

Court of Appeal for Manitoba





Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
Total Appeals	447	519	519	+13.9	-
Civil Appeals	246	279	261	+11.8	- 6.4
Criminal Appeals	201	240	258	+16.2	+ 7.0

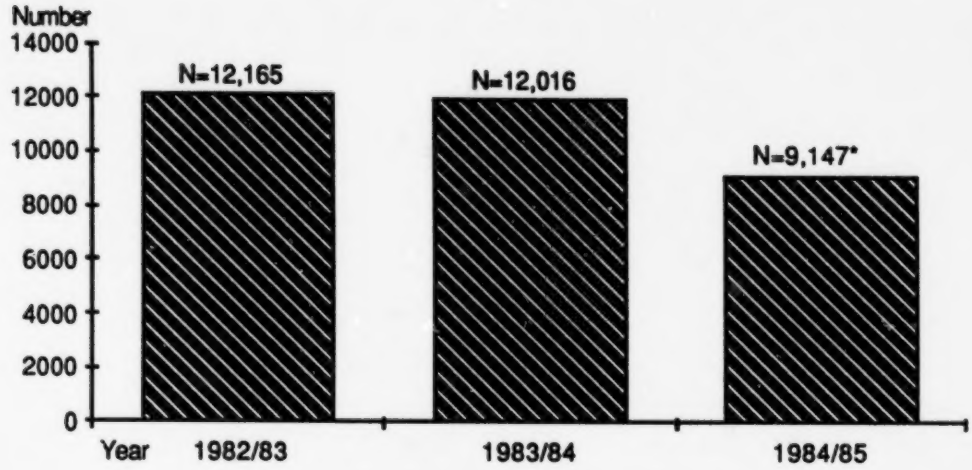
The total number of appeals rose 13.9% from 1983 to 1984 and remained constant from 1984 to 1985. Both civil and criminal appeals increased in 1984 over the preceding year. However, 1985 saw criminal appeals continue to increase (7.0%) while civil appeals decreased (6.4%) resulting in nearly equivalent appeal activity amongst the two areas.

Detailed information on appeals was available for 1984 and 1985. The largest single category of civil appeal was that of family law matters for both 1984 (33%) and 1985 (28%). Criminal appeals were primarily initiated by the accused/defence as opposed to the Crown and represented at least 70% of appeals for each of the two years.

The appeals launched for both areas most often concerned sentence only and constituted an average of 78% of Crown appeals and 56% of accused/defence appeals for 1984 and 1985.

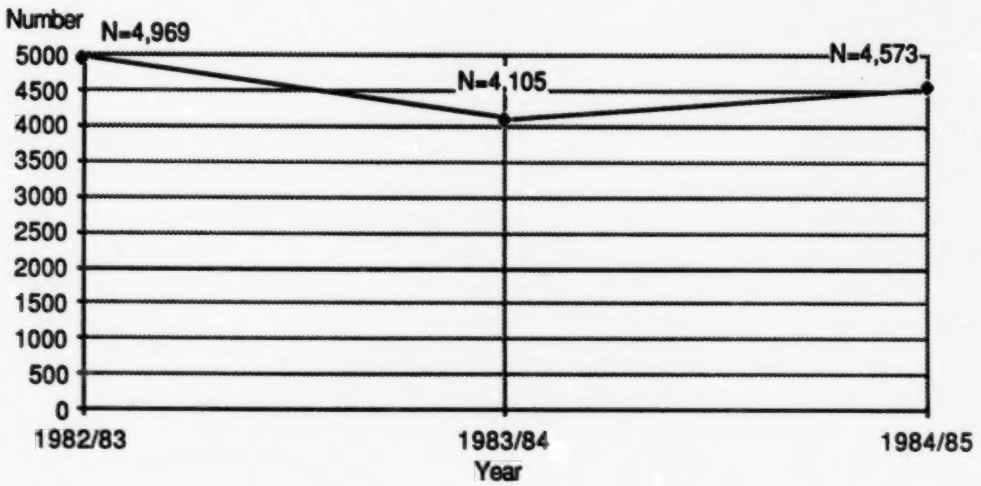
Court of Queen's Bench - Civil Division

Court of Queen's Bench - Civil Matters: Number of Files Opened



*As of 1985, Small Claims decisions were no longer registered as judgements in the QB Civil Division.

Court of Queen's Bench - Civil Matters: Number of Motions



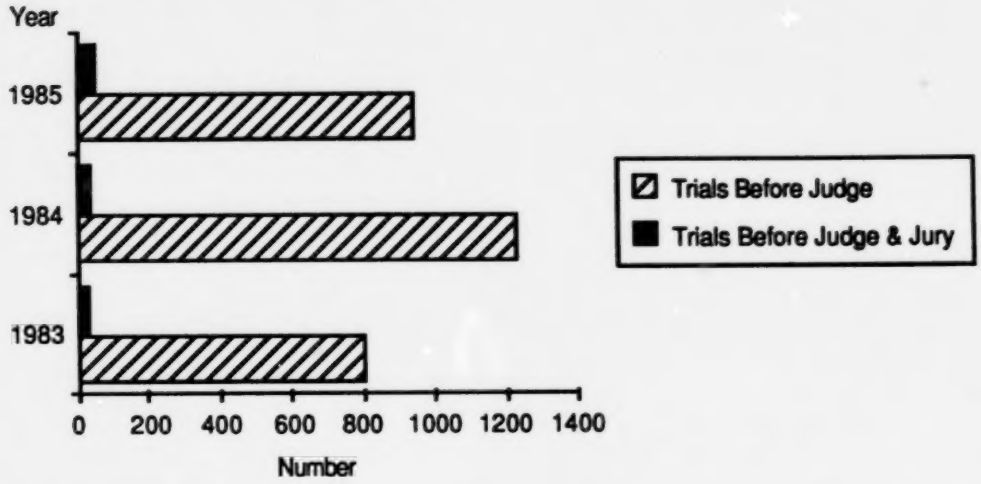
Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
Files Opened	12,165	12,016	9,147	- 1.2	-23.9
Motions*	4,969	4,105	4,573	-17.4	+10.2

*When more than one notice of motion per case occurred, each one was included in the figures presented in the table.

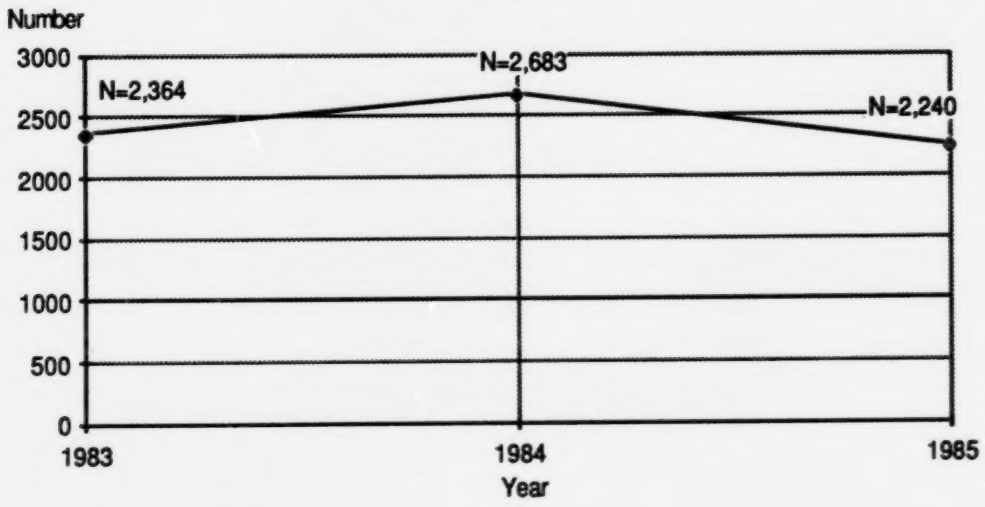
Information was available for the number of files opened and motions in the Civil Division. The number of files opened in 1983 and 1984 were similar with the 23.9% decrease in 1985 attributed to the transfer of Small Claims Court decisions files from the the Civil Division. The activity area of Civil motions was highest in 1983 followed by a 17.4% reduction and a 10.2% increase in 1984 and 1985, respectively.

Court of Queen's Bench - Criminal Division

Court of Queen's Bench - Criminal Matters: Number of Trials



Court of Queen's Bench - Criminal Matters: Number of Motions



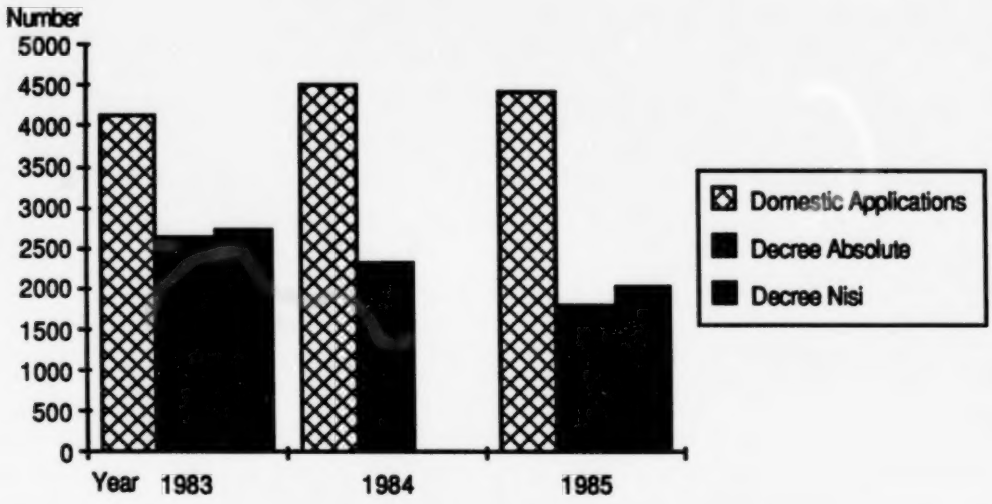
Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
Trials Before Judge	807	1,235	950	+34.6	-23.1
Trials Before Judge and Jury	41	47	60	+12.8	+21.7
Motions	2,364	2,683	2,240	+11.9	-16.5

*When more than one notice of motion per case occurred, each one was included in the figures presented in the table.

An examination of activity areas in the Criminal Division for Queen's Bench revealed that both trials before judge and motions were highest in the year 1984. In 1984, increases of 34.6% and 11.9% were reported for trials before judge and motions, respectively. Conversely, decreases of at least 16% were found for both of the above areas in 1985. Trials before judge and jury experienced a steady increase in both 1984 (12.8%) and 1985 (21.7%).

Court of Queen's Bench - Family Division

Court of Queen's Bench - Family Matters: Applications and Decrees *



*Information on Decrees Nisi were not available in 1984 due to a change in the recording of the statistics.

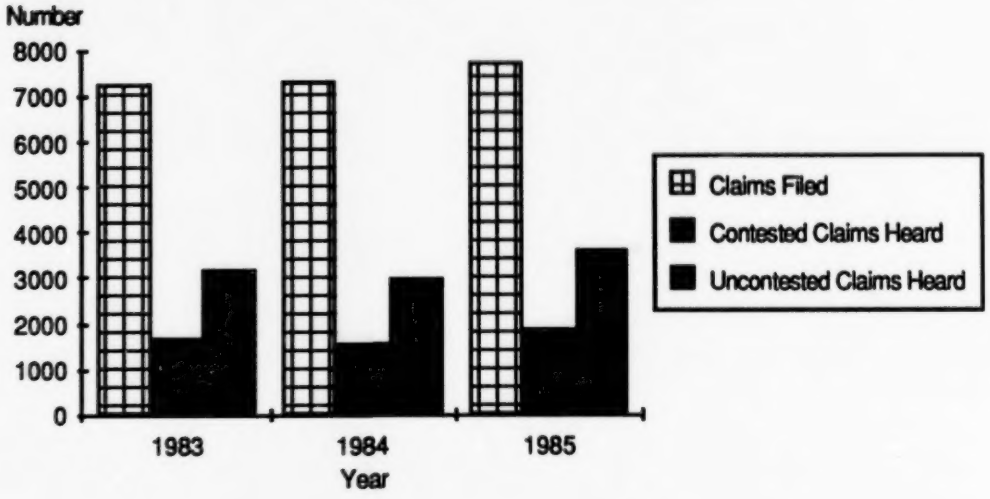
Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
Domestic Applications	4,141	4,539	4,446	+ 8.8	- 2.0
Decrees Nisi	2,732	N/A	2,043	N/A	N/A
Decrees Absolute	2,658	2,337	1,795	-12.1	-23.2

Note: Domestic Applications include Divorce Petitions and F.M.A. Applications.

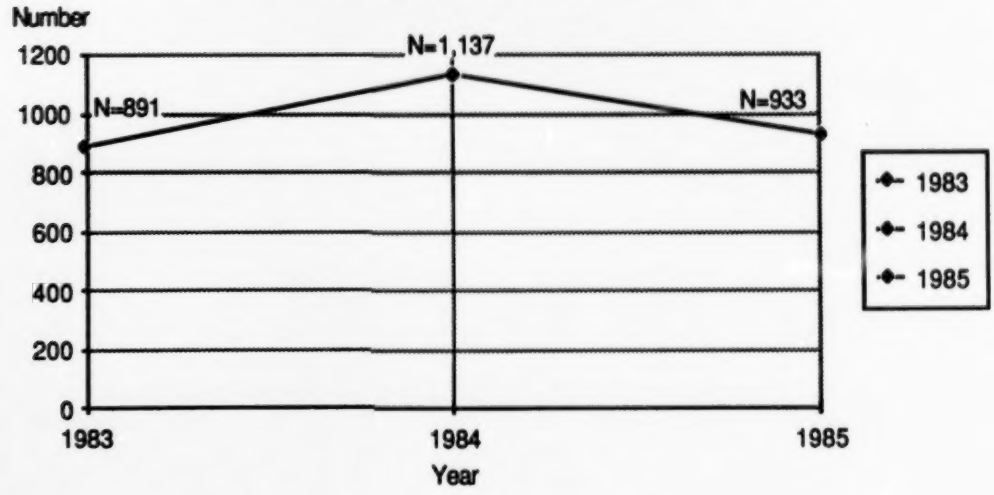
The Family Division of the Queen's Bench saw domestic applications peak in 1984 while both Decrees Nisi (excluding 1984) and Decrees Absolute were highest in 1983. Decrees absolute decreased over each of the last two years with changes of -12.1% in 1984 and -23.2% in 1985. Information on Decrees Nisi, while not available for 1984, saw a decrease from 1983 to 1985.

Court of Queen's Bench - Small Claims Section

Court of Queen's Bench - Small Claims Court: Number of Claims



Court of Queen's Bench - Small Claims Court: Civil Marriage Ceremonies



Activity Area	Number			% Change	
	1983	1984	1985	1984	1985
Claims Filed	7,283	7,353	7,735	+ 0.1	+ 4.9
Contested Claims Heard	1,675	1,571	1,890	- 6.2	+16.9
Uncontested Claims Heard	3,203	3,016	3,622	- 5.8	+16.7
Civil Marriage Ceremonies	891	1,137	933	+21.6	-17.9

While the number of claims filed remained essentially the same from 1983 to 1984, there were slight decreases experienced in the areas of contested (6.2%) and uncontested claims (5.8%) heard. The year 1985 saw increases in the areas of claims filed, contested and uncontested claims. The increases in claims heard were nearly 17% for each of the areas of contested and uncontested in 1985.

Civil marriage ceremonies peaked in 1984 among the three years examined. Ceremonies went from a 21.6% increase in 1984 to a 17.9% decrease in 1985 over each of the respective preceding years.